

Report of the auditor-general to Gauteng Provincial Legislature and the council on the Mogale City Local Municipality

Report on the financial statements

Introduction

1. I have audited the financial statements of Mogale City Local Municipality set out on pages xx to xx, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Accounting officer's responsibility for the financial statements

2. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act (DORA), and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor-general's responsibility

3. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA), the general notice issued in terms thereof and International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements, and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
4. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

6. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Mogale City Local Municipality as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and DORA.

Emphasis of matters

7. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Significant uncertainties

8. With reference to note 48 to the financial statements, the municipality is the defendant in various court cases. The ultimate outcome of these matters cannot presently be determined.

Restatement of corresponding figures

9. As disclosed in note 44 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2013 have been restated as a result of an error discovered in the financial statements of Mogale Local City Municipality during the year ended 30 June 2014.

Material losses

10. As disclosed in note 39 to the financial statements, the municipality incurred material losses amounting to R77 539 902 (2012-13: R59 009 082) as a result of water distribution losses, which represents 44,00% (2012-13: 39,00%) of the total water purchased. The total technical losses of water amounted to R26 361 109 (2012-13: R22 907 407). Non-technical losses amounted to R51 178 793 (2012-13: R36 101 675) and are mainly due to deterioration of water reticulation system, unmetered water connections, burst pipes and unauthorised consumption.

Material impairments

11. As disclosed in note 4 to the financial statements, trade and other receivables were significantly impaired as the recoverability of these amounts are doubtful. The impairment of receivables amounts to R624 171 719 (2013: 571 668 063), which represents 64% (2013: 59%) of consumer debtors.

Additional matters

12. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

13. The supplementary information set out on pages xx to xx do not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited these schedules and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

Unaudited disclosure notes

14. In terms of section 125(2) (e) of the MFMA the municipality is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of the financial statements and accordingly I do not express an opinion thereon.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

15. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I report the following findings relevant to the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected objectives presented in the annual performance report, compliance with legislation as well as internal control. The objective of my tests was to identify reportable findings as described under each subheading but not to gather evidence to express assurance on these matters. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion or conclusion on these matters.

Predetermined objectives

16. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the following selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2014:
- Strategic goal 1: Sustainable services to the community: pp. x – x
 - Strategic goal 2: To promote a sound environmental management system: pp. x - x
17. I evaluated the reported performance information against the overall criteria of usefulness and reliability.
18. I evaluated the usefulness of the reported performance information to determine whether it is presented in accordance with the National Treasury's annual reporting principles and whether the reported performance was consistent with the planned development priorities. I further performed tests to determine whether indicators and targets were well defined, verifiable, specific, measurable, time bound and relevant, as required by the National Treasury's *Framework for managing programme performance information*.
19. I assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.
20. I did not raise any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the selected strategic goals.

Additional matter

21. I draw attention to the following matter:

Achievement of planned targets

22. Refer to the annual performance report on pages x to x; x to x; x to x and x to x for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year.

Compliance with legislation

- 23. I performed procedures to obtain evidence that the municipality had complied with applicable legislation regarding financial matters, financial management and other related matters.
- 24. I did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with specific matters in key legislation, as set out in the general notice issued in terms of the PAA.

Internal control

- 25. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with legislation. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

Other reports

Investigations

- 26. Four internal investigations were conducted during the financial year into acts of alleged fraud and financial misconduct perpetrated by municipal officials. Two of these investigations were in progress at the date of writing this report.

Auditor General

Johannesburg

30 November 2014



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence